

Kosmen provides finishing touch for Lakes

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NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT

Hopefully, someone got this one on tape for YouTube.

Michelle Kosmen's spectacular, sliding finish after some great work by Ashley Chernich produced the golden goal as Lakes High's girls soccer team stunned Vernon Hills 2-1 in overtime on Wednesday in the semifinals of the IHSA Class 2A sectional girls soccer tournament hosted by Grayslake Central.

The win moved the 15-7-1 Eagles into Friday's sectional final against Ridgewood (4 p.m. start).

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Freshman Ashley Downing, shown here in a match earlier this season, was solid in goal on Wednesday, as Lakes stunned Vernon Hills 2-1 in overtime in an IHSA Class 2A girls soccer match.

(News-Sun File Photo)

Kosmen's goal capped a second-half comeback that was needed because Vernon Hills -- which crushed Lakes 4-0 in regular-season play a few weeks back -- grabbed an early 1-0 advantage.

The game stayed 1-0 until about 15 minutes into the second 40-minute half. Kristina Umlauf moved from the back line to the front and created play, putting a ball around the "18."

From there, Emily Mason finished by blasting the ball into the lower corner of the net.

From there on, the level of play seesawed, with both teams showing discomfort playing on artificial turf.

Defensively, Lakes' Sarah Bartlett did yeoman work on Vernon Hills' top scorer as the game moved into extra time.

At that point, Chernich became play-maker, nudging the ball around the Cougars' sweeper into space between Vernon Hills' goalie and Kosmen.

Kosmen beat the keeper to the ball, slid and directed the ball with her extended foot past the keeper and into the net that was 15 yards away.

As the ball rolled across the line, Lakes players celebrated, then headed to the team bus.

Wednesday, after all, was graduation night.

And this squad was going to have a lot to tell their friends.
All of it good.

